

Rochester, NY – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) today announced that one of Rochester's premiere summer locations has reopened after months of improvements.

Today Slaughter joined Rochester Mayor Thomas Richards and Deputy District Commander Major Martin Lewton from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Slaughter in a ribbon-cutting of the new and improved Charlotte West Pier.

"Today hints of the beach's storied past remain and the Pier has taken on a new energy," said Slaughter. "Visitors will find classical, jazz and big band musicians filling the bandstand, dozens of restaurants who have made their home along the Pier, bird watchers, fishermen, and you can still find the one of the most historic carousels in the country. I'm proud to say that the funding I secured and the work done by the Army Corps of Engineers and City of Rochester has lead to a new and improved Pier that is completely handicapped accessible and I invite everyone to come and enjoy a wonderful day here."

In FY 2010, Slaughter secured \$963,000 for the City of Rochester to make necessary repairs to the West Pier. Unlike past years, when the Corps installed temporary surface patches, the funding allowed the Corps to complete a cap replacement and other repairs which were far more substantial and will allow the Pier to withstand harsher weather conditions. Specifically, the Corps has given the Pier a new cement foundation, replaced the first 300 feet of walking surface and another 200 feet of several Pier sections and also made improvements to ensure that excess water does not degrade the new cement foundation.

"I am grateful to Congresswoman Slaughter and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for taking the necessary steps to preserve the Charlotte Pier for future generations," said Mayor Thomas S. Richards. "Whether you enjoy the pier for a brisk morning walk, a casual evening stroll or as a place to catch fish, it is a source of many fond memories of summers in Rochester. It is gratifying to know our children and grandchildren will be able to create their own memories of this truly special place."

"The Corps team is excited about this project," said Maj. Martin E. Lewton, Deputy District Commander. "Public safety is a Corps priority. We have been and will continue to work with officials and stakeholders to identify needs and the best ways, within our authority, to use any funds made available to ensure that the public has safe recreational access to the West Pier."

The Charlotte Beach and the West Pier are among some of the favorite destinations of area residents because of the array of recreational activities including fishing and bird watching.

For a schedule of upcoming events at the Pier, visit the Charlotte Community Association's webpage [here](#).